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Vol. 20, No. 18/March 16, 1998

Smokey Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

Providing a Foundation!

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Update on Lettermen's Weekend

We have been reporting for the last couple of months about the upcoming Lettermen's Spring Weekend, but did not have a lot of details available. We can now give you a more detailed report.

The Lettermen's golf tournament will be held at Green Meadow Country Club, April 17th. Lunch is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Note the earlier lunch schedule. This is to allow more time for people to register and then to progress to the luncheon.

After the luncheon the tournament will begin, as tee time is set for 1 p.m. The only format change is that everyone will play their own ball off of the best drive. Which means each member will have a drive shot, and wherever the best shot landed is where the group will play their own ball.

Prizes will be awarded again this year based on performance. Snacks will also be served following the event while prizes are being given out.

Cost for the lunch, 18-holes of golf and a golf cart is $45 for Lettermen who have paid their dues. Any member who is not current will need to pay their dues as well as the tournament fee.

A letter is in the mail, and you should have received it by now with an entry form enclosed. Send it to the address on the entry form. If not, use the form to the right to register.

Other events going on that weekend include the Friday evening baseball game. That evening the University of Tennessee baseball squad will take on Arkansas at Lindsey Nelson Stadium. The Lady Vol softball team will also be holding a tournament that weekend over at Tennessee Field at Tyson Park, just off of Highway 129.

Saturday will start with the Awards Banquet for the East Tennessee Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame at the Foundry. Cost to attend the banquet is $20 and seating is limited. Interested parties should contact Col. Gene Moeller at (423) 974-1219.

The Tennessee baseball team will be in action again against Arkansas at 2 p.m.at Lindsey Nelson Stadium on Saturday.

Following the game there will be a cookout for Lettermen Club members near Neyland Stadium. The cookout is scheduled to start at 4:30 p.m.

Immediately following the cookout fans are encouraged to attend the Orange and White game at Neyland Stadium. Kickoff is slated for 7 p.m. Fans will be allowed on the field at 5:15 p.m. to get pictures and autographs with the players.There will also be a special presentation at halftime. You don't want to miss this special day filled with activities for everyone.

Memberships

Our current membership stands at 1115 members. If you are a former Vol lettermen and have not paid your dues, please contact Judy Constantine at (423) 974-9054 for details on how to get involved. If you are not a member you are missing out on something special.

Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Lettermen's Club is scheduled for April 2 at 12 noon at the Gibbs Hall Training Table. Board members need to contact Judy Constantine or Pate Shires if you can not attend.

—Donnell Field

RESERVATION

Please enter me in the lettermen's Golf Tournament on April 17th.

_____ _____ _____
NAME HANDICAP TELEPHONE

My team will include: _____ _____
NAME HANDICAP

_____ _____
NAME HANDICAP

_____ _____
NAME HANDICAP

I am enclosing $45.00 entry fee for each of the above (includes lunch, cart, and greens fee)

I will sponsor a hole in the amount of $100.00_____.

PLEASE NOTE: We are only able to reserve space for those golfers who are paid.

****

Please reserve _____places for me and my guest(s) at the Saturday Barbecue, April 18th.

Please return this form to:

Lettermen's "T" Club
PO Box 15016
Knoxville, TN 37901

Baseball tickets are available at the University of Tennessee ticket office for $5.00 each.

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From the Editor

As Others See Us

(From an editorial in the Knoxville News-Sentinel on March 11, 1998)

Don't blame fans of the University of Tennessee men's and women's basketball teams for being downright giddy these days. Blame it all on March Madness.

That's the term given to the NCAA basketball tournament which begins Thursday and runs through the end of the month. Finals are March 29 for the women and March 30 for the men. Winners are true national champions, having won six games over three weeks and somehow outlasting the other contenders for the title.

For the Lady Vols, coached by Pat Summitt, being in the NCAA tournament is a yearly expectation, if not a ritual. Fortunately, the novelty never wears off -- either for the players or the coaches.

This year, the incentives and stakes are higher for the defending national champs. The Lady Vols are undefeated at 33-0 and will play the only other undefeated team in the tournament, Liberty University, at home Saturday night. UT is the top seed in the Mideast region.

In a year of sterling accomplishments, the Lady Vols remained unanimous choice for the top spot this week in the final Associated Press poll, making them the first team in 13 years and only the fourth team of all time to hold the position throughout the season. It also marked the fifth time the Lady Vols completed the season ranked No. 1 in the nation.

The poll ranking came at the same time as the announcement that UT's Chamique Holdsclaw was a unanimous selection to AP's All-America basketball team. Forward Tamika Catchings was named to the second team, and guard Semeka Randall won honorable mention.

As a prelude for the run toward a third national championship, Knoxville was host Monday night for the world premiere of an HBO documentary on the Lady Vols' 1996-97 season when the team won its second national title in a row (the fifth overall) despite its 10 losses during the season. The film sends the team into the first round Saturday on a resoundingly positive note.

For the UT men's team, with Coach Jerry Green in his first year, the excitement is especially contagious, since few early on expected the program to attain a level worthy of an NCAA tournament bid. Talk of going to the Big Dance late in the season carried over into the Southeastern Conference tournament. It will be UT's first NCAA appearance since 1989.

The men's team will travel west to Sacramento, Calif., on Thursday to play Illinois State, a team whose coach declined the UT coaching position that Green later accepted. Both Green and Illinois State's Kevin Stallings worked together on the staff of Kansas University Coach Roy Williams. Irony, humor and drama will constitute the ingredients for that matchup.

For basketball fans who enjoy the game and the excitement of this second season, both the Vols and the Lady Vols represent what the tournaments are all about: For the women's team, it is being top ranked, top seeded and living up to expectations. For the men's team, it is playing well enough during the year, especially in the conference, and surpassing expectations to earn the chance to compete for the national title.

Summitt and Green have talked before about how their teams represent the university. Clearly, they do that in a way that enhances the programs and the community as well. But the teams also provide a strong statement about the two tournaments themselves and the other 63 teams in each.

For the men's and women's teams from UT, we hope that getting to the Big Dance will be only half the fun.

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A Look At The Vols...

PROVIDING THE FOUNDATION!

Before his senior year in 1995 at Brainerd High School, C.J. Black had to choose where he wanted to continue his basketball career.

The 6-9 Chattanooga native had his pick of several of the top college programs in the country, but also in the mix was Tennessee which was just up Interstate 75. The choice came down to Tennessee and Kansas.

Tennessee was in a rebuilding stage and had not made the NCAA Tournament since 1989 and had not posted a 20-win season since 1985. Kansas had a national championship under its belt from 1988, and is a perennial power in college basketball.

He liked the current members of the team and was close to home, but basketball was not all that was on Black's mind. He knew he couldn't play basketball forever, so the Hotel and Restaurant Administration program in the College of Human Ecology sold Black on Tennessee.

"I knew I was going to sign with Tennessee last summer," Black said after he signed with Tennessee in 1995. "Tennessee has the Hotel-Restaurant Administration program I am interested in. You need the academic program because you can't play basketball forever."

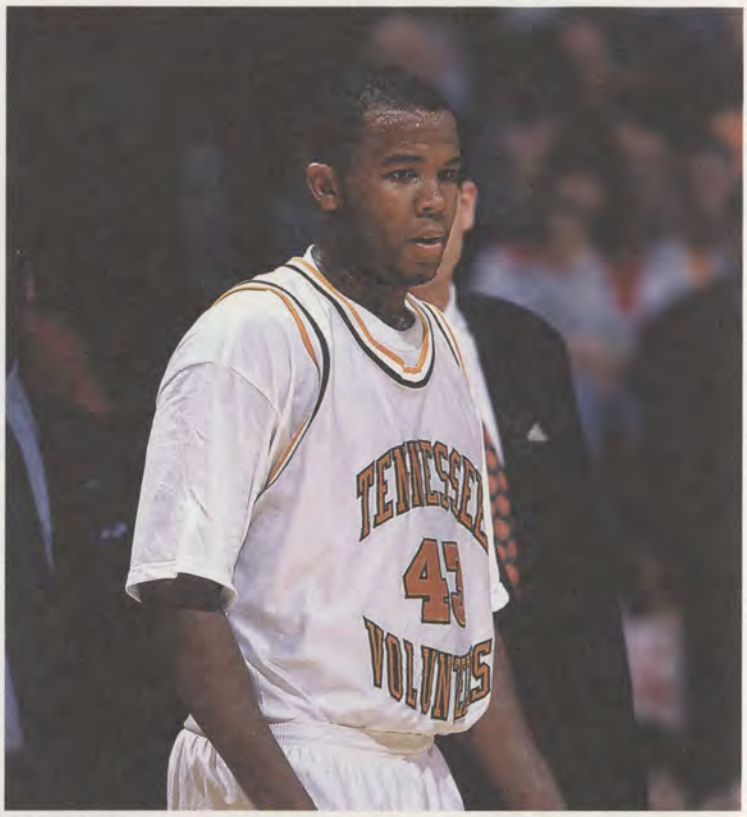
Two years later, Black is working his way toward graduation, and he has also helped put Tennessee back on the map, at least on the NCAA Tournament bracket map.

The Vols put on the their dancing shoes this year and earned the No. 8 seed in the West Regional this year in the "Big Dance."

"When I first got to Tennessee, the team was in a rebuilding stage and now it is a great privilege to be a part of the team that made the NCAA Tournament," Black said. "We are bringing the school tradition back around and everybody is enjoying it.

"Making the tournament is a big step for the program. We are now a part of history. It makes me feel good inside to know I was part of helping Tennessee be one of the best teams in the nation."

When Black inked with the Vols, Nashville's Charles Hathaway did so as well. Tennessee landed the state's top two prospects and the fortunes of UT basketball were looking up.



C.J. Black has provided some solid inside play during the season. Black broke Doug Roth's single season blocked shots record (60) with 64 . In the SEC Tournament Black added eight more to bring his total to 72 on the season.

Last season a team with no seniors and only one junior went through some growing pains. The Vols posted an 11-16 record and failed to win a game on the road. All was not lost for Black though. He played in all 27 games and started in 20 of them. He averaged 11.6 points a game and pulled down 6.3 rebounds. His season was good enough for him to be named second team All-America by Basketball Weekly, and he was an unanimous pick by the SEC coaches to the All-Freshman team.

So with a solid season behind him and the addition of Tony Harris, Isiah Victor and Del Baker to virtually the same team from a year ago, Black had a positive outlook on the upcoming season.

The Vols got off to a torrid start winning their first 10 games including two road wins, a 68-66 win at Memphis and a 74-70 win at Southern California. But things were not all well in Knoxville. Injuries ended the season early for both DaShay Jones and Hathaway, both of whom who were starters at the time of their injuries. Instead of letting the adver-

sity hinder their performance, though, the Vols pulled together as a team and responded by putting together a 20-win season.

"Overcoming the injuries brought this team closer together," Black said. "We have to play more as a team, and everybody has to uphold their responsibilities."

And of course, Black has played a major role in bringing the Vols back into the national spotlight.

He averaged 12.2 points and 6.9 rebounds during the season, and set the school record for blocked shots in a season. He swatted away 64 attempts during the regular season to break the record of 60 set by Doug Roth in 1988-89 campaign. He added eight more during the Southeastern Conference Tournament. His play earned him second team All-SEC accolades.

"C.J. has a lot of confidence right and has been playing hard both offensively and defensively," junior forward Rashard Lee said. "He gives this team a lot. He plays hard and gives us 110 percent every night.

"Seeing him work hard and play hard makes everybody want to give that much effort. He brings a competitive atmosphere to make everybody work."

Black has worked hard this season and the long hours in the gym has paid dividends. Black is more than just a post-up threat for Tennessee. While he doesn't have the reputation of Brandon Wharton on the perimeter, he has developed a consistent 3-point shot. Wharton by the way, headed into the SEC Tournament by hitting 55-128 3-pointers for a 43 percentage which ranked fourth in the SEC.

"I am doing a lot of things on the outside instead of just staying in the post this year," Black said. "I can flash in the middle and shoot the jumper, or step outside and shoot the 3. Those are things I have been working on to enhance my game.

"You have to respect me at all aspects of my game. You can't focus on one person. Brandon can shoot the 3-pointer, Tony (Harris) can drive on you and everybody can bring different things to the game."

Everybody has been bringing different things to the game. The Vols have taken turns several times this year in stepping up and making a difference. During a stretch when the Vols won eight of nine games, several Vols stepped to the forefront.

Lee totaled a career-high 26 points in a win over Vanderbilt and tied a career high with 11 rebounds. Victor matched his career high of 16 twice during the stretch, and Baker scored a career high 12 in a win against Mississippi State.

The Vols also put together back-to-back SEC road wins for the first time since 1988-89 during that stretch. The run was capped off with a 79-75 win over Florida, and broke a 14-game losing streak to the Gators. In that game, Aaron Green dropped in a career high 23 points.

"Different people stepping up has been going on a lot this year," Black said. "If you try to stop one or two of us, somebody else steps us. We have a lot of scorers on this team and a lot of people who can score. It does not make a difference because there is no jealousy on this team. We just want to get the job done."

The Vols have been getting the job done which makes each day something to look forward to.

"A lot of teams are hating the end of the season and do not want to go to practice anymore, but we are very excited," Black said. "We are enjoying the moment and seems the season has gone by fast. I guess because we are winning.

"It is hard to believe we have 20 wins because last season we were only 11-15. This year has been a big difference."

The wins have also brought out the fans, something Black and the rest of the Vols have been glad to see this season.

"It really makes us feel good to see the students come out to the games as well as all of the other fans," Black said. "Last year the black curtains were up the whole year and this year it started out slow, but they are all back now. I am anxious to see where they start out next season in the opening game."

After a 20-win season and a NCAA Tournament bid, everyone in Big Orange Country can look forward to next season.

—Rob Hardin

"When I first got to Tennessee, the team was in a rebuilding stage and now it is a great privilege to be a part of the team that made the NCAA Tournament. We are bringing the school tradition back around and everybody is enjoying it. Making the tournament is a big step for the program. We are now a part of history. It makes me feel good inside to know I was part of helping Tennessee be one of the best teams in the nation."

—C.J. Black

A Look at the Vols...
NCAA Sends Vols to Sacramento!

For the first time since 1989 the Vols will be going to the "Big Dance" and a chance to the play in the national spotlight. The NCAA Tournament bids were announced March 8, and Tennessee was one of five SEC schools invited to take part in "March Madness." The Vols were headed to Sacramento, Calif. in the West Regional as a No. 8 seed.

"Just having a chance to compete for the National Championship is a great feeling," junior guard Brandon Wharton said. "Everybody has a shot to win it, and we will be there on the first day, excited and ready to play.

"We knew we had to turn it up a notch when we started out 1-5 in the SEC. That was our whole season right there. We did some soul searching and came back and played some great basketball."

Freshman Tony Harris is also pleased the season was capped by a NCAA Tournament bid.

"Making the NCAA Tournament was one of the steps and one of the goals I wanted to accomplish while I was at the University of Tennessee," he said. "Making it to the tournament is a big plus for the program and for Coach Green in his first year. He has made us one of the elite teams and raises the hopes for Tennessee basketball in the future."

Tennessee closed out the season by winning its first round game in the SEC Tournament in Atlanta over LSU by a score of 73-62. But the Vols had to turn right around and play Arkansas in the quarterfinals, and the Hogs were too much to overcome as Tennessee fell 102-96.

Thus the Vols closed out the regular season with a 20-8 record. This is the first time since the 1984-85 season the men in Orange have reached 20 wins. Here's a look back at the action of the last four games.

Arkansas 102, Tennessee 96

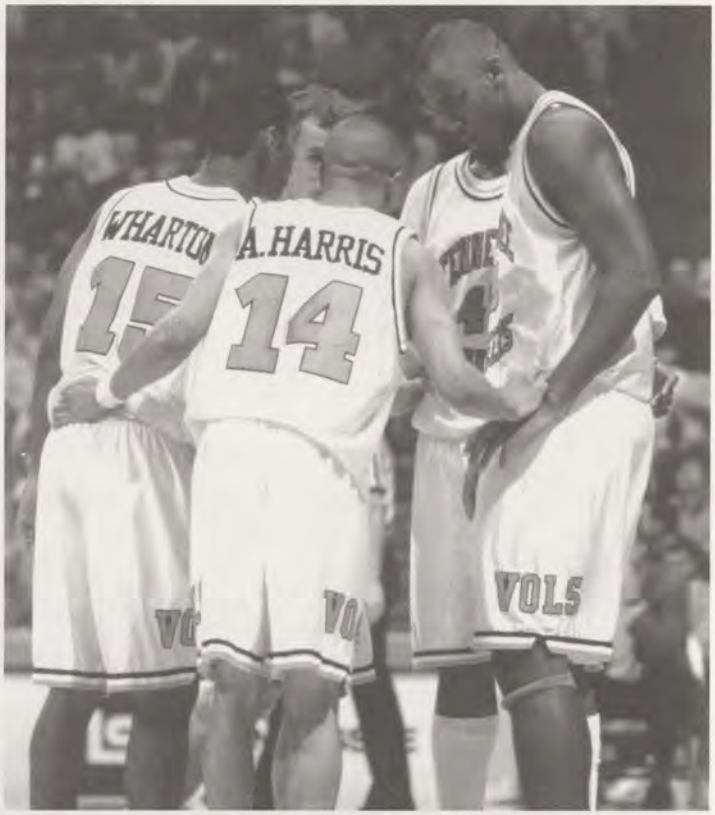
In what was the second highest scoring game in SEC Tournament history (Kentucky and Alabama scored 201 points in 1989 in the Cats 101-100 win), as the Vols ran out of gas late, and the Razorbacks were able to take the win.

Brandon Wharton scored 29 points to match the career high he set earlier at Georgia. Tony Harris added 22 points, C.J. Black 15 and Rashard Lee 12.

Pat Bradley led Arkansas (23-7) with 24. Sunday Adebayo added 18, and Kareem Reid and Tarik Wallace each had 17.

Tennessee shot 51 percent from the floor, but Arkansas outshot the Vols from behind the arc hitting 11-of-23 to their 6-of-13.

The Hogs held a 51-49 lead at the break and neither team could gain any advantage through the first 10 minutes of the second half.



Tennessee overcame key injuries throughout the season to post its first 20-win season since 1985 and earned its first NCAA Tournament berth since 1989.

Reid was fouled on a drive to the basket and made the free throw to put Arkansas up 86-81 with five minutes left in the game. The teams then traded points from that point, and Tennessee could never catch back up.

Tennessee 73, LSU 62

The Vols opened up the SEC Tournament with a win and thus clinched a 20-win season.

Tennessee opened up a 61-48 with six minutes to play, but LSU went on an 11-2 run to make it a 63-59 game with 3:32 on the clock.

Tony Harris answered with a 3-pointer, and the Vols were solid at the free throw line making 7-of-8 final 65 seconds.

It was the 12th consecutive loss for LSU (9-18).

Harris scored 17 of his 18 points in the second half. Brandon Wharton had 17 points, Isiah Victor 13, Rashard Lee 12 and C.J. Black added 11.

Tennessee led 34-25 at the half, but LSU scored the first six points of the second half and to tie things at 39.

Tennessee then had a 14-4 run that was capped off by back-to-back 3-pointers by Wharton to give Tennessee a 53-43 lead with under nine minutes to play. Tennessee then held off the late rally by the Tigers.

Maurice Carter led LSU with 24 points and Willie Anderson added 14.

Georgia 77, Tennessee 72

Freshman Jumaine Jones scored 22 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as the Bulldogs were able to avenge their 29-point defeat in Knoxville.

Jones was instrumental during two key stretches in the game. First,

Georgia rebounded from a sluggish start to outscore Tennessee 23-7 over the final six and one-half minutes of the first half for a 40-29 lead at the break. The run began with 14 consecutive points.

The Vols battled back at the start of the second half and cut the lead to 46-42. But Georgia reeled off a 19-6 run in which Jones and Ray Harrison each scored seven points to put the Bulldogs up 65-48.

"We were due for a bad game," C.J. Black said. "We've got that loss out of our system.

"Everything's been going great. We were tested with a little adversity today (Saturday). We're going to learn from it and get better. We'll come out again with the eye of the tiger."

Wharton hit on seven of eight three-point attempts as he eclipsed his previous career high of 27, which he has scored three times in his career. The last timecoming in the game with Georgia on March 1 of last season. He totaled 27 points against the Bulldogs his freshman season and scored that amount against Alabama last season as well.

Wharton may have been having a career day, but Tony Harris, the catalyst for the Vols offense, was being shut down. The freshman did not score until 7:23 remained in the game and finished with nine points. C.J. Black finished with 16 points.

Tennessee 79, Florida 75

Aaron Green scored a career high 23 points to help Tennessee break a 14-game losing streak to the Gators.

But from the start of the game, it looked as though Florida had Tennessee's number once again. The Gators connected on their first seven shots and opened up a 16 point first half lead with less than five minutes remaining in the half. But the Vols, led by Green, came charging back.

The first of his three first half 3-pointers cut the lead to 33-23. A free throw from Isiah Victor and a Tony Harris layup pulled the Vols to within seven. After a Gator free throw, Green broke loose for a layup.

Then on the ensuing possession, Tony Harris and Florida's Dan Williams became entangled near the Gator's bench. After the bodies were untangled and a review of the film, Harris, Williams and Florida's Obiora Nnaji were ejected.

Brandon Wharton hit two technical free throws, and Green followed with a 3-pointer in front the of the Gator bench. What once was a 16-point lead had quickly became an one point Florida advantage. A free throw from Major Parker pushed the lead back to two, but Green hit a 3-pointer to give the Vols a 36-35 halftime lead.

Tennessee began to build on its lead in the second half, and opened up a 13-point advantage when Green connected on his fifth 3-pointer of the game. The score stood at 57-44 with 12:34 on the clock.

Then it was time for the Gators to make a charge. The Gators tied the score at 63 after two free throws from Ben Wright with five minutes left in the game.

Tennessee answered the challenge though. A slam by C.J. Black, followed by a break away dunk by Wharton gave the Vols a 67-63 lead. After a stop on the defensive end, Rashard Lee calmly sank a 3-pointer, and the lead was back to seven with 3:08 to go.

Florida had its chances to tie the game late though. Poor free throw shooting by Tennessee (16-40 for the game) allowed the Gators to stay in the game. In the final minute of the game, Tennessee was 3-10 from the free throw line.

Wharton added 19 to compliment Green's career day, and Lee finished with 12. Victor pulled down a game-high 10 rebounds.

Eddie Shannon led Florida with 21, followed by Greg Stolt with 16, and Kenyan Weaks with 15.

SEC ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM:

Tony Harris and Isiah Victor were both named to the SEC All-Freshman Team as selected by the league's coaches and presented by the Knoxville News-Sentinel. Seven players in all were selected due to a tie in the voting.

Joining the two Vols on the team are Georgia's Jumaine Jones (14.0 points, 8.3 rebounds), Auburn's Scott Pohlman (9.9 points and started 26 of 27 games), Florida's Brent Wright (8.0), South Carolina's Antonio Grant (7.1) points, and Vanderbilt's Greg LaPointe (5.2 points and 4.3 rebounds).

Harris and Victor give Tennessee an honoree for the third consecutive year, succeeding C.J. Black in '97 and Brandon Wharton in '96.

Harris finished the regular season averaging 13.9 points a game. Victor averaged 7.5 points and 5.3 rebounds for the Vols, although starting only four of 26 games.

ALL-SEC TEAM

First Team: Ansu Sesay, Ole Miss; BJ McKie, South Carolina; Nazr Mohammed, Kentucky; Horatio Webster, Miss. State; Drew Maddux, Vanderbilt.

Second Team: *C.J. Black*, Tennessee; Pat Bradley, Arkansas; Nick Davis, Arkansas; Melvin Watson, South Carolina; (TIE) Bryant Smith, Auburn; and Scott Padgett, Kentucky.

—Volunteer Magazine Staff

VOL BOX SCORES

TENNESSEE 73
LSU 62

LSU (62)
Earl 1-2 0-2 2, M. Carter 7-15 2-8 24, Washington 3-9 1-2 8, Collins 1-12 0-3 3, Anderson 3-12 6-7 14, C. Carter 3-7 2-2 8, Caston 1-1 0-0 2, Tucker 0-0 0-0 0, Potts 0-2 1-2 1. Totals 19-60 18-24 62.

TENNESSEE (73)
Lee 3-9 4-6 12, Victor 5-6 2-4 13, Moore 1-2 0-0 2, Tony Harris 4-15 7-10 18, Wharton 4-12 6-6 17, Black 2-3 6-6 11, Torrey Harris 0-0 0-0 0, Green 0-2 0-0 0, Baker 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 19-49 25-32 73.

Halftime: *Tennessee 35-24. FG%: LSU 31.7, Tennessee 38.8. FT%: LSU 75.0, Tennessee 78.1. 3-point goals: LSU 6-19 (M. Carter 2-2, Washington 1-5, Collins 1-6, Anderson 2-6), Tennessee 10-24 (Lee 2-6, Victor 1-2, Tony Harris 3-9, Wharton 3-5, Black 1-1, Green 0-1). Rebounds: LSU 43 (C. Carter 10), Tennessee 32 (Victor 10). Assists: LSU 9 (Collins 4), Tennessee 7 (Tony Harris 3). Steals: LSU 7 (Earl 3), Tennessee 10 (Wharton 3). Blocked Shots: LSU 0, Tennessee 9 (Black 5). Turnovers: LSU 16, Tennessee 13. Fouls: LSU 25, Tennessee 18. Fouled out: Collins.*

Arkansas 102
TENNESSEE 96

TENNESSEE (96)
Lee 6-12 0-0 12, Torrey Harris 0-3 2-4 2, Black 5-8 4-4 15, Tony Harris 8-19 3-5 22, Wharton 10-17 8-10 29, Green 2-4 2-2 7, Victor 3-4 3-4 9. Totals 34-67 22-29 96.

Arkansas (102)
Bradley 7-19 4-4 24, N. Davis 3-7 3-5 9, Hood 5-7 0-0 10, Reid 4-11 8-9 17, Wallace 5-8 3-4 17, Thompson 2-7 0-0 4, Walker 1-1 0-1 2, Adebayo 8-10 2-6 18, Whitney 0-1 1-2 1, B. Davis 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-71 21-31 102.

Halftime: *Arkansas 51-49. FG%: Tennessee 50.7, Arkansas 49.3. FT%: Tennessee 75.9, Arkansas 67.7. 3-point goals: Tennessee 6-13 (Lee 0-1, Tony Harris 3-5, Wharton 1-5, Black 1-1, Green 1-1), Arkansas 11-23 (Bradley 6-12, Reid 1-3, Wallace 4-7, Whitney 0-1). Rebounds: Tennessee 37 (Black 7), Arkansas 40 (N. Davis 9, Adebayo 9). Assists: Tennessee 15 (Tony Harris 5, Wharton 5), Arkansas 22 (Reid 9). Steals: Tennessee 7 (Victor 3), Arkansas 11 (Thompson 3). Blocked Shots: Tennessee 4 (Black 3), Arkansas 8 (N. Davis 6). Turnovers: Tennessee 18, Arkansas 15. Fouls: Tennessee 24, Arkansas 19. Fouled out: Black.*

Green's Fast Break...

Thoughts on NCAA Tourney!

After posting its first 20-win campaign since the 1984-85 season, the Tennessee basketball team (20-8) will make its first trip to the NCAA Tournament in nine years when the postseason tourney tipped off last week. As a No. 8 seed in the West regional bracket, the Volunteers traveled to Sacramento, Calif., to play No. 9 Illinois State on Thursday, March 12. Jerry Green's Volunteers joined Arizona (No. 1 seed), Maryland (fourth), Illinois (fifth), Illinois State (ninth), South Alabama (12th), Utah State (13th) and Nicholls State (16th) in Sacramento. Second-round play was set for March 14, with the top two teams advancing to the regional semifinals in Anaheim, Calif.

"I'm glad to be in," said first-year head coach Jerry Green. "I was thinking maybe seventh seed, but eighth seed is fine. It doesn't matter who is on the board right now, because all the teams will be very competitive. The good thing is that I do know Illinois State head Coach Kevin Stallings and I've seen his team play about three times during the year. We're really excited about being in, regardless of who they put us in with it still going to be a good time."

Junior guard Brandon Wharton echoed his coach's sentiments. "None of us really had any idea where we would be. It seems pretty fair with our first game being Illinois State. We would love to get a chance to play Arizona in the second round, but we have to concentrate on Illinois State right now. If you are going to win the championship you have to beat the best teams. Just having a chance to compete for the national championship is a great feeling. Everybody has a shot to win it, and we will be there on the first day, excited and ready to play."

Green was asked when he thought the Vols had a chance to make the 64-team field.

"In the Alabama game on the road, right after the Kentucky loss at home, we started doing some nice things offensively and defensively. I figured at the time that if we continued to improve we could make a run at it."

"It was 1989 the last time that Tennessee was in the NCAA Tournament, and I'm just elated that these young men have worked hard enough and accomplished enough to put our name on the board," Green continued. "That certainly helps to start rebuilding a tradition here."

The Tennessee head coach commented on his team's placement on the West Coast. "It doesn't matter. I looked up at the bracket, and none of those games are going to be easy. After seeing some of the other brackets, I think you could put us in any one of them and it wouldn't make too much difference. It's just a matter of getting out there and getting prepared to play a basketball game.

"I think playing together as a team was responsible for our improvement. Another thing, was seeing Tony Harris mature as a point guard by giving him a little more guidance was crucial. We are much more confident now, having won nine of our last 12 since the earlier losses at South Carolina and Kentucky."

Tennessee players Tony Harris and C.J. Black looked at this team's place in Tennessee basketball history. "Making it to the tournament is a big plus for the program and for Coach Green in his first year. He has made us one of the elite teams and raises the hopes for Tennessee basketball in the future," said Tony Harris.

Under Green, Tennessee finished the regular season at 19-7 with a 9-7 mark in Southeastern Conference play. The Volunteers posted a 73-62 win over LSU in the first round of the SEC Tournament on Thursday, but bowed out by virtue of a 102-96 loss to Arkansas the following evening. UT's 20-8 campaign marks the 15th time that a Vol hardwood squad has reached the 20-win plateau.

—UT Sports Information Department

"It was 1989 the last time that Tennessee was in the NCAA Tournament, and I'm just elated that these young men have worked hard enough and accomplished enough to put our name on the board. That certainly helps to start rebuilding a tradition here."

— Jerry Green

Tennis Vols Surprise SEC Foes

The 6-1 Vol men's tennis team upped their winning streak to six by defeating SEC rival, No. 63 ranked, Vanderbilt 4-3 in Nashville on Feb. 24. The Vols started off the match in great shape after sweeping the doubles matches, and was able to hold on as they won three singles matches to take the victory.

"This is the beginning of the turnaround for this team," said head coach Michael Fancutt. "Before this match, we had lost our last 14 SEC matches. It was a great effort playing away that will give us an advantage playing at home. Chad Copenhaver was the player of the day as he won the clutch match with a slightly injured wrist. It is a great feeling knowing you have an experienced junior in a clutch match."

The upset was far from over as the Vols traveled to Gainesville to take on the nation's No. 9 ranked team. The Vols pulled the stunning upset on the Gators with a 4-3 victory.

The Vols got victories from Mark Way, Mark Parsons, Juan Gamboa, Kaspar Rasmussen, and Paul Podbury and Gamboa combined to take a win in doubles action. With the win the Vols improve to 7-1, 2-1 in the SEC.

Diamond Vols Prepare for SEC Opener

The Tennessee baseball team has watched its young squad improve to 12-2 on the 1998 season with the SEC opener scheduled against Mississippi St. for this past weekend.

Tennessee drilled four home runs in a 9-5 win over East Tennessee State University on Mar. 4.

The Vols opened up their home season with a three-game sweep over Morehead St. University. In the first game the Vols watched a four run lead evaporate and had to rally to win 10-8 in the opener. Game two saw the Vols use a steady dose of pitching and timely hitting to down the Eagles 8-2. The finale saw the Vol pitching staff at its best in capping the series with a 10-0 shutout. The Vols showed speed, swiping six bases on Sunday, and power, ripping two homers and three doubles.

The Vols continue to put up some gaudy offensive numbers while watching their young staff gain experience and confidence. On the season, the Vols are batting .346 with 36 home runs and have scored 151 runs to date. Meanwhile, the pitching staff has lowered their ERA to 5.49, down from 5.95 at the start of the Morehead St. series.

LATE NOTE: Tennessee took two of three from Mississippi State in the SEC opener losing game one 15-7, then winning the double-header 22-4 and 4-2. Jeff Pickler was named SEC Player of the Week for his performance during the SEC series.

Vol Golf team Finishes 16th

The Tennessee golf team struggled to its worst round on the 1997-98 season as they posted a final round 313 to finish the Mercedes-Benz Collegiate Championships in 16th place in Jacksonville, Fla.

The Vols totaled rounds of 295-299-313--907. This was the worst the Vols have finished this season. The top Vol finisher was Kariem Baraka, who finished tied for 36th with rounds of 74-72-75--221. The next Vol to finish was Derrick Centers who finished with rounds of 75-76-76--227, to finished tied for 60th.

Next stop for the Vol golf team will be at the Alabama Spring Invitational at lagoon Park Golf Course in Montgomery, Ala., Mar. 20-22.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

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Tennessee Tradition...

Ben Byrd on the Vols... A Look at Bill Gibbs!

The chapter that Bill Gibbs wrote in the history of Tennessee basketball was both triumphant and tragic.

When Ray Mears was hired to succeed John Sines after the 1961-62 season he brought along with him an assistant who had most recently coached at Fairborn (Ohio) High School and had never coached at the college level. But Mears had known Gibbs when both were undergraduates at Miami of Ohio and the two had visited frequently when Mears was coaching at Wittenberg University.

"I picked Bill because I felt he had the qualities we needed at Tennessee, particularly in recruiting," Mears recalled later. "When I was at Wittenberg he used to visit me frequently and we would talk basketball. I saw his high school teams play and felt that he was a good, solid basketball coach with a lot of fresh ideas."

Gibbs' credentials were to be tested sooner than anyone expected. Mears fell ill with depression after only a few early season games in the 1962-63 season, and his young untried assistant suddenly found himself serving as head coach pro tem in the challenging heights of Southeastern Conference basketball.

For a while there was little to indicate that anything special was going to happen that season. The Vols went 7-3 against relatively soft non-conference opposition, but lost two of their first three SEC games and appeared to be heading into a slaughterhouse at Lexington in mid-January. As usual, Adolph Rupp's Wildcats were the bully boys of the conference.

The first half of that game went according to the book as Kentucky jumped out to a 15-point lead at intermission. It was at that point that Gibbs displayed some of that daring that was to become the trademark of his brief career. He decided to run the floor with the Big Blue in the second half, a strategy that usually spelled disaster at Lexington. But at 15 points in arrears, he figured he had nothing to lose.

It turned out he had everything to win. The Wildcats were left flat-footed by the Vols' upswung tempo. Guard Tommy Wilson, the sixth man on that Tennessee team, came off the bench and exploded for 28 points, enabling the Vols to catch up in the final minute. Kentucky still a chance to win it, but Wildcat All-America Cotton Nash missed a foul shot that would have turned the trick. It was no contest in the overtime as the Vols quickly got ahead and then let Danny Schultz nail it down with nine out of ten free throws to claim a 78-69 victory.

The high school coach from a little town in Ohio had marched into college basketball's Death Valley and come away with Adolph's scalp. Of all the upsets this writer has seen over the years, this may have been the biggest.

The Vols were not always that brilliant that season. Their overall record was 15-11 and their SEC record 6-8. But Gibbs had another arrow left in his sling. In the season's finale, and his last game as acting head coach, the Vols beat Kentucky again, 63-55, as sophomore A.W. Davis scored 23 points, this time in Knoxville.

When a healthy Mears returned for the 1963-64 season, Gibbs returned to his station as assistant coach. I don't think Bill was ever really happy in that capacity after his taste of headier wine, and who could blame him? He had shown that he could duke it out with the big boys.

On the morning of Feb. 4, 1964, Bill Gibbs left the Vol travel party at a motel in Gainesville, Fla., where the team was to play the Gators that night. His destination was Auburn, where he was to scout Tennessee's next foe. The small plane he boarded got only one hundred feet off the runway and then crashed. Gibbs and the other eight people on board were killed on impact.

And so the brief but triumphant story of a promising young basketball coach ended in sadness. That was 34 years ago, and there are not too many folks around UT now who remember him first hand. But his name lives on. Gibbs Hall, the former athletic dorm, was named in his memory shortly after his death.

Former Vol

Orb Bowling
(1961-63)

He was the "People's Choice" during his time at Tennessee, and was one of the most popular players ever to don the Orange and White.

Orb Bowling came from Sandy Hook, Ky., and had a solid junior season in 1961-62, averaging 14.6 points per game and gathering 203 rebounds in in 23 games.

Injured during much of his senior season, he brought the house down at the Armory Fieldhouse with a cameo appearance in the season finale, a 63-55 win over Kentucky.

He had excellent offensive moves for a man 6-10 and was a dependable rebounder. He could, according to the UT Press Guide, "move well to his left or right, hooks either way."

Bowling lives in Collierville and is a stockbroker in Memphis.

Orb Bowling is a former Vol Tennessee fans remember with fondness long after the end of his playing days in the early 1960s.

A Look At The Lady Vols...
WITH SEC TITLE COMES NO. 1 SEED!

It is just one more step to their goal - an NCAA championship. All be it - three consecutive NCAA championships. But to talk to the players, winning the SEC Tournament was just that, another step. In defeating Alabama 67-63 in the tourney finale, the Lady Vols have given themselves an opportunity to take that step. The Lady Vols enter the NCAA Tournament as the Mid-East's No. 1 seed, with first round action at Thompson-Boling Arena versus Liberty University.

"We know what our focus is so we do not discuss other matters," said All-America Chamique Holdsclaw. "The recognition we have received to this point is great for the sport of women's basketball. However, we must continue things one step at a time and not be swept away by what is said or written by the media."

Tennessee opened the 1998 SEC Tournament with a first round matchup against Mississippi State. This is a team that the Lady Vols faced in early February and defeated 74-52, led by Holdsclaw's 26 points and 11 rebounds. This time around State had come off some impressive wins and were in a position of spoiler.

State came out with that intention, but it was Tennessee who showed that there would be no upset in this round. Holdsclaw and Tamika Catchings each dropped in 22 points in the Lady Vols 88-60 win. Catchings also pulled in 14 rebounds while Holdsclaw had 7. Semeka Randall contributed 18 points and 6 boards while Teresa Geter grabbed 8 rebounds. Tennessee shot 46% for the game while holding the Dawgs to 32%. Tennessee also forced 22 turnovers and 10 steals.

The Bulldogs opened the with a 7-0 run in the first 1:28 of the game. Tennessee responded with tying the score at nine 9-9 with a little over four minutes gone in the game. After a Bulldog field goal, the Lady Vols took the lead, a lead they would not relinquish, at 12-11 on Catchings two free throws. Tennessee then went on a 21-6 run over the next seven minutes of the first half. The half came to a close with Tennessee up 49-32.

The second half the Lady Vols continued to pressure the ball, forcing 22 turnovers for the game, as they outscored the Bulldogs 39-28 in the second half on their way to the final 88-60 margin.

There would not be much time for rest, not in this tournament, as Tennessee would face in-state rival Vanderbilt in the second round.

In many cases the regular season matchups can be thrown out the window as tournament time tends to bring everyone's game to another level. After Vanderbilt got beat by 31 in Nashville, Coach Foster of the Commodores said he would like to play Tennessee again. He believed his team played poorly and could do better in another game. His wish turned into a nightmare as Tennessee blazed, blistered and torched Vanderbilt's defense for a 106-45 victory. The win was the biggest margin of victory by either school in their head-to-head competition.

The Lady Vols dominated every aspect of the game, and at one point in the second half Vanderbilt had only one basket while Tennessee had stretched their lead to 65 points before Holdsclaw, Catchings and Sameka Randall took a seat for good. Holdsclaw finished 25, followed by Catchings with 20 and Randall with 16.

"I was really proud of how we started both halves," said Coach Pat Summitt. "We challenged the team to be a better rebounding team and they responded to that challenge. This was a great game for us. The thing that made it look stronger than it was is that Vanderbilt did not shoot the ball well and we rebounded better than we had been recently."

Next up for the Lady Vols was Alabama, a team that had played well in Knoxville earlier in the season. It was no different this evening either.

Tennessee seemed poised to make a run that would knock out the Crimson Tide, but they refused to quit and responded with key baskets. The Lady Vols lead by as much as 15 points in the second half, but they could not put it away. Winning 67-63 was big, but questions were asked if Alabama might have the knowledge of what it takes to beat Tennessee?

Tennessee was lead in scoring by Holdsclaw with 22, while Catchings and Randall each chipped in 16 and 11 respectively, but it was their rebounding that were key as Catchings had nine rebounds, Randall finished with eight and Holdsclaw added seven boards. What helped Tennessee out was that the Crimson Tide shot just 36 percent from the floor for the game, while the Lady Vols were not much better, 40 percent.

Holdsclaw was named Tournament MVP for her 23 points and 8 rebounds per game average while compiling 8 assists, 5 blocks and 4 steals.

"Our basketball team played as well defensively as they have all season. Alabama presented problems for us inside and influenced our shooting percentage," said Summitt. "However, we executed well when we needed to and made the big plays. Freshman Tamika Catchings certainly stepped up her defensive intensity down the stretch when the game was on the line. Although we have only been in a couple of close games, I did not see any signs of panic."

Tennessee is now poised to take another step when they hit the court for the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Because of their ranking and undefeated season they hosted the first round. From there it is a matter of which team can win six games in a row.

Coach Summitt and her squad know that road very well. After all, there was not a media source last year that thought Tennessee had a chance to win another title after losing 10 games last season. But they found out, as did the nation, what the rest of us here know. Give Coach Summitt and her team a chance to play in a situation where there is nothing to lose and a time to prepare as if there was no tomorrow and you have a deadly combination.

"I think that we as a team and coaching staff are pleased with how the season has progressed, but our journey is not yet complete," Summitt commented. "All we are concentrating on right now is getting ready to play in the NCAA tournament. We do not want to slip up by losing our focus. We are not emphasizing for them to be the best ever, our goal remains to capture six in a row. A key motto for us will be to 'survive and advance.'"

If Tennessee can continue its winning ways they will not have to leave the state of Tennessee until the Final Four. The Mid-East Regional site is in Nashville at Memorial Gym on the Vanderbilt campus.

—Donnell Field

NOTE: Tennessee's Pat Summitt, Chamique Holdsclaw, and Tamika Catchings were unanimously selected as SEC Coach of the Year, Player of the Year, and Freshman of the Year, respectively. Holdsclaw also was a unanimous selection to the 1997-98 SEC First Team along with Catchings. Semeka Randall garnered All-SEC Second Team honors. Laurie Milligan (3.24 GPA), Brynae Laxton (4.0 GPA), Kellie Jolly (3.16 GPA) and Niya Butts (3.11 GPA) were named to the Academic All-SEC Team.

This Week In Big Orange Country

Vols finish 5th at SEC indoor championships

Tennessee's men's track and field program took home a fifth-place finish on Sunday at the SEC Indoor Championships in Baton Rouge, La., with its 65-point total. The Arkansas Razorbacks won their second straight championship and sixth indoor title overall since joining the conference in 1992 with their 181 points. The Hogs were followed by LSU with 77 points, Florida with 71 points in third and South Carolina with 70 points in fourth. Yet, the Vols did have several athletes shine during the final day's competition.

In the 55 Meter High Hurdles, Dawane Wallace came home with a second-place finish and a provisional time of 7.30. Also competing in the event for Tennessee was Grant Cleghorn who finished with a time of 7.70. Tyrone Graham continued his strong performances in 1998 with a 6.25 showing in the 55 Meter Dash which was only .03 seconds above his season-best time of 6.22 at Virginia Tech's Valentine's Classic.

In the finals of the 800 Meter Run, freshman Chris Hendrix-Buxton had an outstanding performance with his season-best time of 1:52.07 and a fifth-place finish. Also, the Vols' Russell Frye posted another provisional time with his third-place mark of 21.40 in the 200 Meter Dash.

Senior Bob Dickie concluded his run of SEC Indoor Championships with a strong sixth-place showing in the 5000 Meter Run with his time of 14:37.06. The Vols' Distance Medley Relay corps also posted a successful mark on the day when Josh Mears, Dawane Wallace, Chris Hendrix-Buxton and Doug Ellington ran a season-best time of 10:02.02 in the event and finished a strong second only .25 seconds behind Arkansas' individual championship squad.

In the 1600 Meter Relay, Tennessee ran the event in a time of 3:19.12, while Wes Boudreau finished in sixth-place in the 35-lb. Weight with his toss of 61-0 3/4. Boudreau's teammate Aaron Ausmus had a season-high throw of 59-2 while fellow squad member Scott Perkinson tossed the weight 57-0 1/4 which stands as his personal and season-best mark.

Finally, the Vols Tim Bell and Diondre Jackson once again finished with equal heights in the High Jump as each cleared the bar at 6-9 3/4.

Russell Johnson brought home an individual SEC Championship on Saturday as he and the University of Tennessee's men's track and field team competed in first-day action at the Southeastern Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships being hosted by the LSU Tigers at the LSU Field House.

Johnson posted a leap of 17-2 1/4 in the event. His mark stood almost a full foot above second-place finisher Gordon Sasser of Arkansas with his jump of 16-8 3/4. The Vols' Tim O'Hare also fared well on the day with his personal and season-best mark of 16-2 3/4.

Advancing to Sunday's 800 Meter Run final for Tennessee was freshman Chris Hendrix-Buxton who posted a 1:53.88 in his semifinal heat. Other Vol finishers in the event included John Dickson with a time of 1:56.32 and Garrett Lewis with a mark of 1:57.21.

Freshman Russell Frye continued his successful string of runs during Saturday's action when he posted a time of 21.56 in the 200 Meter Dash. The time was the fifth-best mark on the day and advanced him to Sunday's final.

The final event for the Vols came in the Shot Put. Usually a strong showing for Tennessee was no different on Saturday. The Vols had three men with season-best throws. Aaron Ausmus posting the sixth-best throw of the day with his season-best toss of 59-6 3/4. Darwin Walker followed with a personal and season-best throw of 57-8 1/2 with the final athlete to compete for Tennessee in the event came in Wes Boudreau who posted a season-high mark of 56-10 1/4.

Other Tennessee competitors included Justin Devine and Ryan Douglas in the 400 Meter Dash where each posted times of 49.97 and 50.04, respectively.

—Chad King

Russell Johnson captured the SEC Indoor Pole Vault title, clearing 17-2 1/4 which qualifies him for the NCAAs.

Henley Wins First Ever SEC Women's Pole Vault

Lady Vol senior Leslie Henley etched her name in school and conference record books, as she won the Southeastern Conference's first-ever women's pole vault competition and helped Tennessee to a sixth-place overall finish over the weekend with 51 1/2 points at the SEC Indoor Championships at LSU Field House.

Henley, a native of Manchester, Tenn., and a graduate of Coffee County Central High School, cleared the bar with a career-best height of 11 feet, 5 3/4 inches to finish first and provide UT with 10 points. The vault propelled her into a tie for the 14th-best collegiate mark of the season by a female and gave her a chance to be one of 15 women invited to the RCA Dome in Indianapolis for the NCAA Indoor Championships on March 13 and 14.

"This is incredible," Henley said. "It's really exciting to have the opportunity to compete in the first SEC pole vault championship for women. The competition was great. They were all pushing hard. I wish I could have gotten that last height (11-8), but I'm satisfied."

Henley wasn't the only Lady Volunteer making a splash in the vault. Sophomore Beth Gehring brought home third-place honors with a mark of 11 feet, 1 3/4 inches. The work by the pair gave Tennessee a first-day total of 16 points, which was good enough for fifth.

Leslie Henley captured the first SEC women's pole vault title at the SEC Championships in Baton Rouge.

On Sunday, UT rolled up 35 1/2 points to place sixth overall, giving the Big Orange its best finish since taking fourth with 64 points in 1995. Last season, Tennessee tied Arkansas for seventh with 33 points.

Big contributors on day two included Kelli White, Saidah Jones, Lesly Love and Michelle Elfervig. White placed third in the 55m with a career-best 6.81 in the finals and followed that up with a fifth-place showing in the 200m in 24.14. Jones and Love, meanwhile, took third and fifth in the 400m with times of 55.54 and 56.08, respectively. Elfervig tied a career-best leap in the high jump, soaring over the bar at 5 feet, 8 1/2 inches to notch fifth-place honors.

Other Lady Vols who scored were Maureen Ferris, who finished seventh in the 800m in a personal-best 2:12.01; Mindy Watkins, who was seventh in the 5000m in 18:01.73; and the 4x400m relay team of Love, Erica Witter, White and Jones, which crossed the line second in a season-best 3:42.20.

Selected Lady Vols will be in action on Sat., March 7, at the East Tennessee State University Last Chance Qualifier Meet in Johnson City. They will be hoping to qualify for the NCAA meet in Indy the following weekend.

WOMEN'S TEAM STANDINGS

1. LSU	95	7. Georgia	50
2. Arkansas	88	8. Vanderbilt	45
3. Florida	85	9. Kentucky	33
4. S. Carolina	84	10. Miss. State	6
5. Auburn	80.50	11. Ole Miss	5
6. Tennessee	***51.50***	12. Alabama	1

—Eric Trainer

This week's "Spotlight on the Lady Vols" features two of Tennessee's basketball players: LaShonda Stephens and Kyra Elzy.

#34 LaShonda Stephens 6-3, Sophomore Canton, Ga.

LaSHONDA STEPHENS

After spending much of her first season in the Orange and White buried deep in the post rotation, Stephens' role changed when the team lost Tiffany Johnson before the season started. As the top returning post player, Stephens stepped into her new role with aplomb. Starting 25 games thus far this year, Stephens has played a pivotal role in the pivot. She is averaging 3.9 points and 3.3 rebounds sharing the post responsibilities with freshman Teresa Geter. Combined the two centers are averaging over 10 points and eight rebounds per contest.

In her best outing of the season, Stephens helped the Lady Vols to an impressive victory over Akron in the first-round of the Northern Lights Invitational in Anchorage, Alaska. In that contest, she was third in scoring with 13 points on six-of-10 shooting, tying her career-high. She also tied for the team lead in rebounds with five-including four on the offensive end.

"LaShonda has probably improved more in the last three weeks than during the entire season," said Coach Pat Summitt. "Her post defense should give us a boost in the tournament, since she has learned how to establish her presence down low."

The Akron game nearly matched her best performance of last season, when she collected 13 points and seven rebounds against South Carolina in the first-round of the SEC Tournament.

In her initial campaign with the Big Orange, Stephens played in 38 games and averaged 2.4 points and 1.5 rebounds.

Stephens is majoring in elementary education.

KRYA ELZY

#5 Kyra Elzy 6-1, Sophomore LaGrange, Ky.

As one of the top perimeter defenders on the team, sophomore guard Kyra Elzy's presence has been missed since she went down with a season-ending knee injury on Feb. 1. Having started 18 games, Elzy was the team's fourth-leading scorer averaging 7.3 points per game.

A well-rounded player, she led the team in scoring against Manhattan, rebounding against Vanderbilt and in assists against UT-Martin—one of only three on the team to lead in each of the three categories at least one game during the year. Her best outing came against the Skyhawks, when she tallied 13 points, eight rebounds, four steals and three assists.

This past summer, along with Tamika Catchings, Semeka Randall and Kristen Clement, she helped the USA Junior National Team to a silver medal at the FIBA Junior World Championships. Elzy led the team in field goal percentage at .636, while also averaging 6.7 points, 3.9 rebounds and 2.7 steals per contest.

As a freshman, Elzy became just the fifth freshman to ever start a game for the Lady Vols. Last season, she played in 39 games, starting 17, and collected 70 steals. She also averaged 5.8 points, 3.5 rebounds and 1.8 assists per game.

However, her biggest contribution of her freshman year came in the NCAA Final Four, where she collected 14 points, nine rebounds and five steals in the national semi-finals against Notre Dame. She returned two days later to shut down Old Dominion's All-America Ticha Penicheiro and force her into 11 turnovers. At the end of the season, she received the team's "Holly Warlick Best Defensive Player Award".

She is majoring in sports psychology.

—Brad Laux

VASF News and Notes

Football Season Tickets

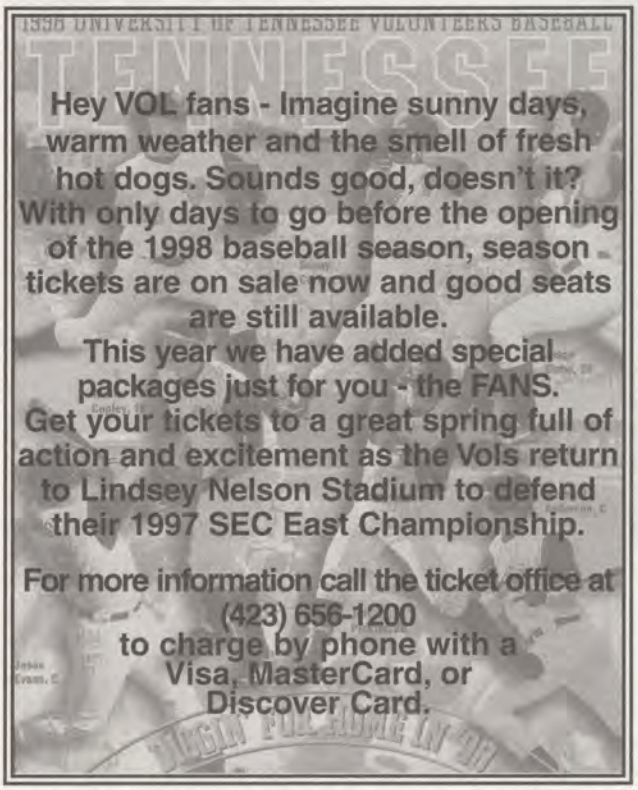
The 1998 season football ticket renewals and new season ticket applications will be mailed in April. If you have not received your renewal form by April 15, call the ticket office at (423) 656-1200.

For renewing donors, if you are requesting a seating location change, please send a separate note attached to your season ticket renewal form describing the changes requested. Change requests will be considered according to the VASF priority system. The VASF can not guarantee any requests as all changes are contingent upon turnover. Non-donor-based grandfathered seats cannot changed.

New donors applying for season tickets should include a separate note attached to the ticket order form listing any special requests (aisle seat, etc.), as well as listing your top four seating location preferences. If you are ordering more than two tickets, please list your seating preferences (i.e. four together, two pairs, etc.) to help the VASF better seat everyone. Remember to please adhere to the limits on away game ticket order, particularly the Vanderbilt game. Away game tickets will be allocated and assigned according to the guidelines mailed to all donors in February of this year.

Season Football Parking Information

Applications for parking passes will be mailed in May to donors at the Ridgerunner level and above. Parking will be assigned according to the guidelines mailed to all donors in February of this year. Watch this space in upcoming issues for more information.



Gift Acknowledgements and Tax Summaries

Please keep your acknowledgement letter the VASF sends after each gift is made. The VASF only sends tax acknowledgement letters as the gifts are received. There will NOT be an end-of-the-year letter stating all tax-year contributions. Contact the Athletic Development office at (423) 974-1218 for more information.

Get Ready for the Orange & White Weekend!

The annual spring football game will be held on Saturday, April 18, 1998 at 7 p.m. The Tennessee Baseball team will host Arkansas earlier that day with the first pitch coming at 3 p.m. Tickets for the Orange & White game are general admission and will go on sale over the phone beginning the first week of April. Tickets are $3 for adults, $1 for students under 17, and $6 for a family package ticket. You may charge by phone at (423) 656-1200. The ticket office accepts Visa, Master Card, or Discover card and is open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Sea Ray Relays Return to Knoxville on Easter Weekend

The Sea Ray Relays, a chance for current and former Tennessee track and field athletes to showcase their talents against hi-caliber world competition as well as other SEC schools, will once again be held at the Tom Black Track on the Tennessee campus April 8-11, 1998. Admission is free. Come out and see the UT men's and women's track and field teams run for the glory this weekend.

Upcoming SEC Weekend Baseball Series & Promotions

The next two Friday night baseball games bring great opportunities to see the Base Vols in action. Both games also have ticket promotions designed to "pack the park." On March 20, NewsTalk 99 wants to help "pack the park" with $.99 general admission tickets for the Vols' game against Kentucky. The next week, March 27, The Knoxville News-Sentinel will help folks "Pack the Park" with $1 general admission tickets when guests bring a copy of The Knoxville News-Sentinel for the Vols' battle with Florida. Saturday, March 28 brings Lay's Baseball Day and the first 500 children 14-years-old and under will receive a Tennessee baseball.

Baseball Season Game Day Ticket Information

The ticket booth at Lindsey Nelson Stadium will open two hours before the first pitch for each home game this season. Only cash is accepted at the ticket booth. You may also charge your tickets in advance and have them waiting on you at Will Call. Call the Ticket Office at (423) 656-1200 for more details. Game-by-game ticket prices are $5 for reserved seats, general admission seats are $3 for adults and $1 for students 17-years-old and under.

Baseball Parking Information

The parking services office would like to remind everyone not to park in the F (fraternity) lot located behind the right field fence of Lindsey Nelson Stadium. Any S (staff) or C (commuter) lot on campus is available for parking on weekends and after 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Little League & Fan Appreciation Sundays

In Lindsey Nelson Stadium, every Sunday is Fazoli's Fan Appreciation Day. Fans will be allowed onto the outfield for autographs and conversations with the Tennessee baseball team immediately following Sunday's games. Also on Sundays, little league baseball players, if they are in their uniforms, will be admitted free into the game to sit in the general admission sections.

Baseball Birthday Parties

This year kids of all ages will have the opportunity to celebrate their birthdays in style with Tennessee baseball. Each complete birthday party includes tickets and beverages for 12. Also included are three large Papa John's pizzas, an autographed baseball for that special birthday boy or girl, a pre-game visit by a Tennessee player or coach, and public address and message board recognition during the game. Each complete birthday party is $80. For more information about this exciting new program, contact the Athletic Marketing & Development Office at (423) 974-1218.

—Steve Sams

The Last Word...

A Memorial To Tom Elam!

His given name was Thomas French Elam, but nearly everybody knew him as "Tom," "Col. Tom," or, as I knew him, simply as "Colonel." This magnificent man, who saw both Gene McEver and Peyton Manning play for the Vols, died March 9 at Baptist Hospital in his native (and much beloved) Union City.

He was a member of the UT Athletics Board since 1951 and a member of the University Board of Trustees since 1956. His tenure as a Trustee was the second longest in school history, behind only Memphian Wassell Randolph (1927-70).

Col. Elam often referred to himself as the "luckiest country lawyer who ever entered the practice of law in Tennessee," but his client list included many of the movers and shakers in Obion County and West Tennessee.

Courtroom abilities not withstanding, he did, however, make his most eloquent statements on behalf of the University.

"The University of Tennessee is the most important institution in the state," he often said. "I don't think any state is a good one without a good state University. As the state's land grant college, It has representatives in every county. It reaches in and touches almost every phase of life as we know it today, whether it be planting the corn crop, delivering babies, looking for a cure to cancer or trying to find an answer to the nuclear problem. It's a good one and it must continue to be one. It must continue to be a leader in all activities in the state.

"I take no back seat or no back talk from anybody on my interest in, love and support for the University of Tennessee. I have said that my church and family are number one and number two or vice versa and the University is Number three. I've held that position for over 60 years.

"I don't lay any particular claim to the greatness or success of the University. The only thing I can say that I have done the best I could. I have no apologies for anything I've done. A lot of other people have made tremendous accomplishments. It's a teamwork deal and I'm happy to be a part of the team."

I remember the Colonel telling me about an experience he had interviewing a young Arkansas assistant coach named Doug Dickey who was Bob Woodruff's choice to lead the Vols back to gridiron glory. It was late November 1963.

"That was one of my most fascinating experiences," Elam said. "It made me mad to begin with because I had never heard of Dickey. I asked Woodruff who he was. He said the guy was another Darrell Royal or Frank Broyles.

Tom Elam accepts the dedication of the Neyland Stadium Press Box in his honor in September 1992.

"I said I didn't care if he was another Knute Rockne. We're playing Kentucky on Saturday and haven't missed a Kentucky game. He said go see him anyway."

Colonel and his wife, Kathleen, drove to Memphis and met Dickey, and drove around the streets of the Bluff City for an hour or so while Elam sized up the young Arkansas assistant.

"Dickey impressed me as an intelligent, articulate young man," Elam said. "I liked the answers he gave. He made an impression on me and I was sold. Once I've got a firm position, I stay with it."

Dickey's picture hangs in Elam's office with the following inscription: "Thanks for having faith in a young coach."

"Coach Woodruff had told me that Tom Elam was one of the people who would support my being the head coach," Dickey said. "He said I needed to visit with him and get comfortable with him. That's an easy thing to do with Tom Elam. He's a man with great insight into a lot of problems."

It's hard to think of Colonel without thinking of a portion of nearly every speech I ever heard him make. It's from a poem called "The Bridge Builder," written by Murfreesboro native Will Allen Dromgoole (1860-34).

I remember a magic moment back in September 1992 when Colonel recited this poem from memory, as he always did, talking about service to others and lending a helping hand, the hallmarks of his journey through life. It was the night they dedicated the Neyland Stadium Press Box in his honor.

If you ever heard Col. Elam speak, you can close your eyes and feel the power of the message contained therein. That distinctive voice was in full flower.

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
That sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when he reached the other side and built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength in building here.
"Your journey will end with the ending day;
"You never again must pass this way.
"You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
"Why build you this bridge at eventide?"
The builder lifted his old gray head.
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today,
"A youth whose feet must pass this way.
"This chasm that has been naught to me,
"To that fair-haired youth a pitfall be.
"He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
"Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

Bridge-builder. Leader. Man of his word. Community and University leader. Loyal to a fault. That's Tom Elam. That's the man I'll always remember.

— Tom Mattingly

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